

## MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Amusement Ride Safety Unit  
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WEBSITE: [www.mdfs.state.mo.us](http://www.mdfs.state.mo.us)

TO: Amusement ride owner/company

FROM: Amusement Ride Safety Unit

SUBJECT: 2005 Operating Season – Permit/Law Changes

DATE: December 9, 2004

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety is preparing for another year of administering Missouri's Amusement Ride Safety Act. I am pleased to say that 2004 was a fairly safe year in relation to ride injuries. We wish each of you a safe and prosperous 2005.

Please remember your application for a permit to operate amusement rides in Missouri should be completed and returned with the correct fees and supporting documentation **at least two weeks in advance of your first scheduled event.**

Passage of House Bill 1403 resulted in a number of changes to the Amusement Ride Safety law resulting in the Division playing a more active role in relation to safety inspections. It is strongly recommended that you review Missouri's Amusement Ride Safety Act before beginning your 2005 season. If you have any questions or need further information please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our website, [www.mdfs.state.mo.us](http://www.mdfs.state.mo.us), and following the link to Amusement Ride Safety. Below is a brief summary of the law changes that become **effective January 1, 2005.**

- Definition of an "amusement ride" was expanded to include:
  - Dry slides over twenty feet (20').
  - Any tram, open car, or combination of open cars or wagons pulled by a tractor or other motorized device, except those used solely for transporting patrons to and from parking areas, or those used for guided or educational tours.
  - Any bungee cord attraction or similar elastic device.
  - Any climbing wall over ten feet (10') in height, except not-for-profit entities that follow YMCA Climbing Wall Safety Guidelines or the Boy Scouts of America Guidelines.
- Spot safety inspections may now be conducted by Missouri Division of Fire Safety staff. If during a "spot" inspection life safety issues are discovered, the ride will immediately cease operation until the safety issue is corrected. Prior to the ride being allowed to operate, a safety inspection performed by Division staff will be required and an inspection fee will be assessed based on a rate of \$30.00 per hour.

- The owner of portable amusement rides shall file an event itinerary with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety on a division form no less than fifteen (15) days before the event and shall include the following information:
  - Name of amusement ride owner.
  - The carnival, fair or activity sponsor.
  - Address and telephone number of the site.
  - The dates open to the public.
  - Name of contact person on site.
- Stricter enforcement relating to “Non Destructive Testing” will occur during the 2005 season. Documentation verifying compliance with NDT requirements shall be provided to the ride inspector and submitted with the inspection report prior to the issuance of a state operating permit.
- Per 11 CSR 40-6.031(4) upon the sale or transfer of a state permitted amusement ride the current permit holder shall notify the Division of Fire Safety in writing within five (5) days of such transaction. The state permit decal shall be removed or obliterated before the ride is sold or transferred by the current permit holder. The new owner shall be required to obtain a new safety inspection and be issued a new permit before the ride shall be operated in the state.
- Rides or attractions exempt from being required to have a state operating permit include:
  - Any inflatable device.
  - Any funhouse, haunted house, etc. that **does not** have any moving mechanical component.

Based on the number of requests the Division of Fire Safety received in 2004 to issue a “permit waiver letter” due to the owner/company failing to submit necessary documentation in a timely manner may not be an option during 2005. If such documentation is not submitted within **two (2) weeks** prior to the scheduled event an operating permit may not be issued for that event.

Again, we wish you a safe and successful 2005. If you have any questions or need further information please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our website.

Sincerely,

Randy L. Cole  
Asst. State Fire Marshal